

The correct recognition of words based on the depth of processing

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Long term memory, which is defined to be the component of memory where information is never lost and can be retained at any given moment.

However, these three components are not the only components of memory, a different breakdown of memory is included. This breakdown includes the idea of how deep one thinks about information. There are many variables that can help one remember information, capacity and duration are one, but depth is also another component. How deep someone thinks about a piece of information is critical in being able to retrieve it later. How deep someone thinks about information can be portrayed in many ways depending on how the information is presented. It can be in ways like in a sentence or next to another word that has the same definition, or even the number of vowels and consonants is presented. How deep one thinks about the information depends on how well they will retrieve it in a later task.

Experiments prior to this one tested how recognition is affected by the depth of processing. The article by Craik and Tulving (1975), profoundly describes how processing words in different depth levels affects the retrieval of those words in a recognition task. Craik and Tulving used three levels of encoding, shallow, medium, and deep. Their shallow level included typescript words which was asking if the word was in upper case or lower case. The medium level of encoding was asking rhyme questions, if the words rhymed with other presented words. The deep level of encoding included fill in the blank questions. Each participant was shown these question formats in a sum of 60 trials.